896

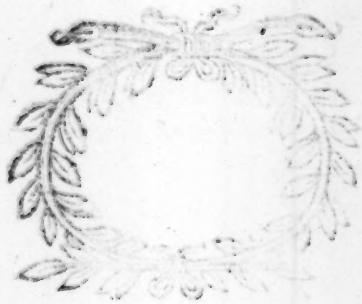
A PANEGYRICK TO THE KING'S Most Excellent Majesty.

By *CHARLES COTTON.*

Mart. Epigr.

Jam Cæsar, vel nocte veni: sint astra licebit,
Non deerit populo, Te veniente, dies.

LONDON, Printed by *Tho. Newcomb*, 1660.



To the most High and Sacred Majesty

OF

CHARLS

By the Grace of GOD,

KING of *GREAT BRITAIN,*

FRANCE & IRELAND,

Defender of the Faith, &c.

Most Dread Soveraign,

IT has been an antient and a laudable custome, and even in latter times not altogether out of use, to celebrate the Inaugurations, Triumphs and Vertues of Princes, upon every happy Turn of State, memorable Success, or glorious Action; and that by way of Panegyrick, or laudatory Oration. Thus *Isocrates* to *Philip*, *Mamertinus* to *Julian*, *Ausonius* to *Gratian*, *Nazarius* to *Constantine*, and *Pliny* to *Trajan*. And it ought chiefly to continue, where the

Peoples peace, liberty and ſafety become enfranchiſed and reſtored by ſo happy a revolution, as the Divine providence has now wrought in reſtoring Your Sacred Majeſty to us, who have ſo long bowed and groaned under the yoke of Tyranny and Oppreſsion. And although I Your Majeſties moſt loyal Subject am far unfit for ſo great an undertaking, a work that requires the beſt and moſt aſſured Pen to the due celebration of the vertues and greatneſs of ſo Excellent and ſo mighty a Prince; yet it may not be the greateſt wonder that the happy Influence of your Royal beams have wrought, that a man how much ſoever a ſtranger to all the ornaments, and even the method of Art, ſhould nevertheleſs pour out his Joy at the ſacred feet of ſo gracious and ſo indulgent a King and Soveraign. Now then is a time to imitate ſo beautiful Examples, and after our Hoſanna's and Hallelujahs to Almighty God for your many great and miraculous Deliverances, to give Your Majeſty a moſt loyal and hearty Welcome to Your juſt, and ſo long unjuſtly uſurped Inheritance, and to all that (by Your gracious Indulgence) we doe or may call ours.

It is not unknown to Your Majeſties faithful Subjects, by what an unparallel'd Rebellion, what vile confederacies, and what unexampled cruelty Your Royal Father (of bleſſed memory) was depoſed from his undoubted and hereditary Empire; nor by what an irreligious power Your Majeſty has

has since been so long oppoſed and kept from the Government of Your faithful and affectionate people: Nor with what admirable patience, and abſolute reſignation of your ſelf and affairs to the will of the moſt Mighty, You have embraced dangers, and ſuſtained afflictions, that nothing but ſo Heroick a Spirit could oppoſe, or ſuffer. And certainly, the great mercy, and mighty power of God was never more manifeſted in any humane affair, then in the miraculous preſervation and moſt happy reſtauration of your Royal Perſon to your Crowns and Kingdoms.

It were an unſeaſonable, and perhaps an inofficious work, to repeat a ſtory Your Majeſty in Your own grace and goodneſs are willing to forget: It were otherwiſe not hard (chiefly to a mind not yet weaned from the ſenſe of Your paſt ſufferings) to trace You through the unhappy progreſs of Your misfortunes; and to let Your Majeſty know, that although our hands were manacled from the ſervice of Your cauſe, and our feet fettred from the purſuit of Your fortunes, yet our hearts went along, and were wounded with every impious ſtroke that was made to the danger of Your Sacred Majeſties life, or to the prejudice of Your Royal Intereſt.

Thus far (*Sir*) we dare ſpeak our ſelves honeſt, even when we lay griped in a Tyrants talons, and panting under his weight; when upon every Paraſites ſuggeſtion, or his own perpetual Jealouſie (his

more frequent Intelligence) mens lives, which were his ſport, only ſerved to make way to their fortunes, which were his buſineſs. And although good and prudent Subjects ought to meaſure their happineſs or affliction by the Rulers ſcale, yet ſince all men are not principled at that honeſt and knowing rate, it may not be impertinent to conſider, that as Your own particular ſufferings (if a Prince can be ſaid to ſuffer alone) have made Your Majeſties perſon moſt welcome to ſome, ſo I hope the common calamity they were involved in, and are now freed from, will endeare it to all, even the moſt blind and violent, of Your moſt ſeduced, or moſt wilfully offending Enemies. Men now look back into their lives, and ſee ſo many deformities behind, that they run affrighted from themſelves, and can find no refuge but in Your Princely armes, no ſafety but in Your mercy, nor no peace of mind till Your Royal word hath aſſured them of Your Love, without which Your Pardon would only reproach them of their unnatural guilt.

But (*Mighty Sir*) wee find You apt to forgive, and ſo ſweetly inclined to mercy, that You prevent the offender, by obliterating the offence; ſo that the moſt obnoxious find themſelves abſolved before they aske; and become more aſhamed of their miſdemeanours, then afraid of their puniſhment. * *Verecundiam peccandi facit ipſa Clementia regentis*; and Your Majeſty has made ſo admirable an improvement of this excellent Maxime, that

* *Seneca de Clem. lib. 1*

that methinks the Crimes could be no less, that could serve to manifest so Christian, and so Heroick a vertue.

By Your gratious Pardon to your people, this Nation that has been for some unhappy years, and that through the particular guilt of a few, a general scandal to all her Neighbours, shall now become reconciled to the other obedient parts of the world, and wipe off a blemish, that such as were strangers to the true English nature, unjustly laid upon the whole. * *Magnum quidem illud Seculo dedecus, magnum reipublicæ vulnus impressum est; Imperator & parens generis humani obsessus, captus, inclusus, ablata mitissimo seni servandorum hominum potestas, ereptumque principi illud in principatu beatissimum, quod nihil cogitur.* A reproach too fitly applied to the condition of this unfortunate Kingdom, and perhaps not unbeseeming this occasion; should we not, whilst we celebrate Your Mercy, seem to awake Your Majesties reposing Justice.

* Plin. Pan Tra.

Let us therefore now celebrate our Countries Redemption, Joy and Dignity, and forget her old bondage, wounds, and afflictions. A Nation rescued from the barbarity and insolence of *Straws* and *Tylers*, and restored to a flourishing Kingdom under the blessed Government of an Heroick, and a lawful King. A King so gloriously eminent in his piety, magnanimity, fortitude, wisdom, and mercy. A King like *Saul*, in the stature of his Vertues, more conspicuous then all the potent Princes

Princes of the earth, endowed with all the true real ornaments and graces, that may render a Monarch feared, and adored of his own people, or make him an illuſtrious and unimitable preſident to all the future Rulers of mankind. A Prince nouriſht and bred up in all the extreames of adverſe Fortune, who by the great favor and aſsiſtance of a miraculous Providence, has victoriouſly run through all the threatning accidents of treacherous Deſigns, bloody Arms, deaf and tumultuous Seas, unnatural ſickneſs, and what ever elſe may in the greateſt malignity of force, or fortune, threaten or attempt the life of man.

Iſta virtus eſt quando uſu'ſt qui malum fert fortiter.
Fortiter malum qui patitur, Idem poſt patiter bonum.

A Prince who has not only, and that fearleſs, oppoſed his magnanimous breſt to all theſe ; but which is more, and ſtill more ſhining, even in the midſt and fury of miſchance, and in the loweſt ebbe of his greateſt neceſsities, through the purety of his Innocence, and the conſtancy of his vertue, has defended himſelf from the ſnares of inſinuating policy, when dreſt in all the gaudy ornaments of temptation, and diſguis'd in all the ſubtilty of diſtorted reaſon. A Prince whom no allurements, no ſecurety of His own endangered perſon, no reflections upon His immediate and clamorous wants, could ever draw from His firm pietie towards God, or from the Dignity and Majeſty of His own Honor.

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These tryals (*Royal Sir*) have made you thus superlatively eminent, and acquired not only the consent of all, even the worst of men, but have added also one Jewell more to the Crown, and given You a general and undisputed choyce, to Your undoubted and hereditary succession. And these are those tryals that have approved You to be that good King, that other people pray their Kings may be, and have taught You to prize a lasting and immarcessible vertue, before all the unstable and fading glories of Crowns and Scepters. * *Ab hoc cardine præcipue pendet orbis fælicitas, si principibus maxime cordi fuerint, quæ sunt optima.* And it is from this natural and constant love to vertue, that wee expect a reformation of times and manners, and stedfastly hope (through a continued providence) that wee and ours shall see Your Majesties happy Throne established to all posterity. And doubtless that great and unerring Councel, that has stil had the conduct of all your Majesties affairs, saw this the fittest time to restore You to Your desolate people; for never yet was so great necessity of a good Prince, nor ever so good a Prince to supply so great a necessity. Never so distracted a face of men, and business, such confusions of Arms and Councels, such fears and jealousies, whisperings and expectations, every one ignorant of his distinct office, and few resolved upon their common duty: Nothing but clouds, and murmuring noise and fluctuation, shifting and unsetledness, while the

* *Erasm: Ep. 17. lib. 3.*

Actors themſelves were amazed at all they did, neither knowing how nor why. But when the fore-running Phoſpher of Your Majeſties bright, and ſo long miſs'd day, The thrice Noble and ever to be recorded *General* appeared, and that the face of affairs began to unvaile it ſelf, then the glorious and Majeſtick light even of Your dawning, ſo cheared the hearts of ſome, and illuminated the minds of others, that they all returned into the natural channel of their duty, and ran with a ſmooth and untroubled current, to kiſs and court thoſe noble feet, which the violence of their giddy and inteſtine ſtormes had once tript up, and hurried the ſacred Frame as a prey to the inſenſible Ocean.

Neither was this an ordinary conflux of men either in reſpect of their number, or quality, but ſuch an one as might rather ſeem to oppoſe, then ſecure Your way; and in a better ſence ſerve to inform Your eye of the ſtrength, and Your Princely heart of the Joy and Loyalty of this Your Majeſties now moſt happy Kingdom. **Videres reſerta tecta, ac laborantia, ac ne eum quidem vacantem locum, qui non niſi ſuſpenſum, & inſtabile veſtigium caperet. Oppletas undiq; vias, anguſtúmq; tramitem relictum tibi. Alacrem hinc, atque inde populum vbiq; par gaudium parémq; clamorem, tam æqualiter ab omnibus ex adventu tuo lætitia percepta eſt, quàm omnibus veniſti, quæ tamen ipſa cum ingreſſu tuo crevit, ac prope in ſingulos gradus adaucta eſt.* So hearty and ſo general was the Joy they met You with, that they ſcarce

* *Plin. Pan: Tra.*

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left you a path to your lawful poſſeſsion: And it may be worthy your Majeſties Princely conſideration, and beſt thanks to Almighty God, that your way was laid open by your peoples love, and not forced by your own juſt Vengeance, that your Throne is eſtabliſhed in the Judgements, and ſupported by the voluntary and united Strength of your People, fixt and riveted to the Centre of your Laws, not floating in Blood, nor raiſed upon heaps of Ruine, but built upon its true and ancient Foundation: Not one Wound to blemiſh your Triumph; not one Oppoſer to diſpute your Title, nothing but Praiſe and Acclamation for your ſafe return, everyone doting of the Majeſty of your Perſon, admiring the Luſtre of your Vertues, and crying as it were with one Mouth, *God ſave the King*! Never was ſo great an harmony of mind, in ſo prodigious and ſo mixt a number of men; Never ſo wonderful and ſo ſudden a change in mens perſons, minds and manners: Old men forgetting their infirmities, and Young men their wildneſs; Good men their injuries, and Ill men their vices; all offences and animoſities laid aſide and forgot, as if they had never been: The worſt men ſecured by Your Pardon, and the beſt rewarded by Your Preſence; not only concurring in their Allegiance to their Prince, but mutually reconciled to one another. No man now regards his danger, or ſuſpects his ſafety; Every mans loyal love to his Prince, has overcome the fears he had of himſelf. We

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look upon our ſelves now as under protection, and the protection of a King that can, and will protect us; A King that has vanquiſht Danger, and fetter'd Miſchance; A King that with his own victorious ſword has cut through thouſands of prevailing Enemies, and even in the miſcarriage and treachery of an unfortunate day, remained a Conqueror, and won the hearts of thoſe men, whoſe ill taught hands were exerciſed to an unnatural war againſt their own lawful Head.

It were (without flattery, *Moſt Gracious Soveraign!*) an endleſs work in it ſelf, however unacceptable to Your Majeſty, to repeat the number, much leſs to celebrate the value of Your approved virtues, which have ſhone forth with dazeling ſplendor, through the clouds and horror of thoſe impious times we have too lately ſeen: And though their natural luſtre need no foil to ſet them off to the worlds eye, yet they muſt appear more excellently beautiful, when immediately confronted to the beſtial, and moſt odious qualities of the late uſurping Tyrant: A man (if he ought to be called by that name) made up of all the vicious inclinations, Machiavilian councels, bloody deſigns, and execrable executions that ever yet blotted the face of Hiſtory; and in his unbridled and inhumane will, apping'd by the numerous and ſucceſsful arms of a corrupted and a rebellious power, a crew of veterane Vilains, whoſe Pay was their god and cauſe, and whoſe admirable deſign was no leſs then

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the subversion of what has ever been most dear to all good men in this life, to wit, Religion, Prince, Laws, and Country; disciplin'd to nothing but Blood and Rapine, Plunder and Insolence; till He (who is indeed the Glory of Military Commanders) taught a new Army a new lesson, appeased their fury, moderated their ambition, and reformed their riots. * *Corrupta erat disciplina castrorum, ut ille Corrector Emendatorque contingeret.* 'Twas his Conduct that has made up an honorable body out of the most infamous Army in the world; an Army formidable to all, but beloved of none; an Army employed to destroy them they pretended to defend, and to subject a Nation, not to be subjected by other then the spurious issue of her own bowels: But now by the prudence and integrity of their Leader, become an Army faithful to their Prince, such an one as may be useful and necessary to the most important affairs of all Christendom.

* Plin. Pan: Tra.

What things, with Your own courage, Your Kingdoms wealth, and Your Peoples fidelity, may Your Majesty not do? Secure Your Subjects at home, and enlarge Your Dominions abroad; repay injuries, reward friendships, and shake foreign Scepters, as well as defend Your own: Your clemency may nourish us, whilst Your arms chastise Your Enemies; and when Your Royal pleasure shall summon Your Subjects to the test, they who have smiled at Your misfortunes, may see that You can command, and that You govern men who dare and will obey.

A Prince that graſps three Scepters in one hand, may conquer all he will, with both. Neither is there any thing ſo impoſsible to do, or ſo hard to ſuffer, that You have not already ſuffered, or done; and although Your Majeſty cannot out-do Your ſelf in the quality, yet You may increaſe the number of Your glorious actions, at your own generous choiſe.

We have found Your Majeſty a King throughout, in all Your trialls and misfortunes: Nothing in all your dangers, and calamities, unworthy Your birth, and greatneſs; no low addreſſes to Your floriſhing Neighbors, no unprincely offers or unmanly apprehenſions; no more abated with Your miſhaps, than we find you elated with Your ſucceſs, but conſtant and unſhaken in all the ſtormes and violencies of fortune. * *Nihilq; magis à te ſubjecti animi factum eſt, quàm quod imperare cœpiſti.*

* Plin. Pan. Tra.

Theſe vertues of Your Sacred Majeſty, as they have made You the beſt Prince, ſo they muſt conſequently make us the happieſt people; A people that are to be governed by a Prince, that has begun His Empire in himſelf, and made himſelf abſolute Soveraign over his own paſsions; A Prince that has made all the world to admire, but left none to diſpute the prerogative of His vertues; A Prince that in the youth, beauty, and carriage of his own perſon, without any addition of His more laſting graces, ſpeaks himſelf truly and magnanimouſly what he is. * *Jam firmitas, jam proceritas corporis,*

* Plin. Pan. Tra.

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jam honor capitis, & dignitas oris, ad hoc ætatis indeflexa maturitas; nec sine quodam munere deûm, festinantis senectutis insignibus ad augendam Majestatem ornata cæsaries: nonne longè latéq; Principem ostentant? In fine, Sir, there is nothing we could desire either in the Majesty of Your person, the experience and stability of Your mind, or the sweetness of your Royal disposition, that God and Nature have not prevented our prayers in, and blest us withall, even (if it be possible) beyond the weak aim of our own wishes: And we were certainly the most stupidly ignorant, and impiously ungrateful of all that ever wore the characters of men, if we should not acknowledge it in our Devotions to God, our Loyalties to Your Majesty, and endeavors by all the obedient affection, and industrious services of a good and Loyal people, to deserve it in our selves.

Live then, Great King, the true Defender of the Catholick Faith, the Sacred and uncorrupted Fountain of the Law, and the Gratious and tender Father of Your people! May Your Majesty prosper by sea, and land; at home, and abroad, in all You design and enterprise; and the merciful, omnipotent and only-wise God fortifie Your arm in Warr, and direct Your Justice in Peace! May Your Majesty live long, and fortunate, full of Peace, Honour and happy daies, ever secured (by the same waking Providence) from the malevolence of wicked men! May Your Crown and Dignity shine brighter to the distant World by the addition

dition of a hopeful and numerous Posterity, A Posterity to inherit their Fathers Vertue, and the great Name of their illustrious Ancestors! Lastly may there never want a Prince of Your Royal Line to govern these Kingdoms, from Race to Race, in the same Justice and Reputation, while there are men to obey, or a man to rule upon the face of the earth! and may that disloyal Subject perish in his ingratitude to God and You, that will not sincerely, joyfully and heartily say,

AMEN.

FINIS.

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